United Nations E/2010/SR.21

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

22 July 2010

Original: English

Substantive session of 2010
Coordination segment

Provisional summary record (partial)* of the 21st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 6 July 2010, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Wetland (Vice-President) ..... (Norway)

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting. A panel discussion was conducted.

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In the absence of Mr. Ali (Malaysia), Mr. Wetland (Norway), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2009 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (E/2010/85, E/2010/90 and E/2010/CRP.3)

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/2010/90)

Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B and 60/265 (E/2010/90)

Opening of the segment

1. **The President**, opening the coordination segment, said that the themes of the coordination segment — "Follow-up to the 2009 ministerial declaration on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health" and "Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development" — reflected the general willingness to strengthen the Economic and Social Council, increase its visibility and ensure a high level of involvement of the United Nations system in its work. The 2010 segment would take place, for the first time, over three full days owing to the inclusion of agenda item 6 (a), "Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development", pursuant to Council resolution 2009/30. The Council would also consider the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2009/10 (E/2010/69) and integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. During the coordination segment, the Council would assess the United Nations system's role and activities, identify areas where the system should promote comprehensive and effective approaches and recommend ways in which support provided by the system could be strengthened in response to current challenges.

2. The ministerial declaration of the 2009 high-level segment, entitled "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health" (A/64/3/Rev.1, para. 56), had emphasized the connection between health and development and highlighted a broad range of policy measures. The Council's review of its implementation by the United Nations system was particularly timely in light of th upcoming high-level plenary meeting of the Gener Assembly on the Millennium Development Goa (MDGs), to be held in New York from 20 22 September 2010. He trusted that the Council discussions would contribute to achievement of th health-related Goals by 2015; it was clear that furth efforts were needed in the health sector and, particular, in areas such as maternal and newbor health.

3. **Mr. Stelzer** (Assistant Secretary-General fo Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitle "Theme of the coordination segment: implementing th internationally agreed development goals an commitments in regard to global public health (E/2010/85), said that it outlined the work of the Unite Nations system in the area of health and developmen assessed system efforts to implement the 200 ministerial declaration and analysed United Nation country-level experiences and recommendations Despite the crippling effects of the global food, energy financial and economic crises, there had been significa progress towards achievement of the health-relate MDGs. Setting specific goals had stimulated innovation particularly in business practices and fund-raising Partnerships formed in areas such as immunization an combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria shoul be replicated in other health-related areas.

4. Coherent policies and comprehensive approache that addressed social, environmental and economi factors were essential to improving public health. Th report showed how the United Nations system worke to reduce poverty and malnutrition, provide emergenc aid and human development to people experiencin humanitarian crises and conflict, improve health fo migrant populations and integrate holistic educatio strategies into social inclusion policies. Inter-agenc coordination was being further improved through th exchange of best practices and the establishment an strengthening of partnerships and platforms. Globa health initiatives in line with the Paris Declaration o Aid Effectiveness included, inter alia, the Globa Campaign for the Health Millennium Developmen Goals, the joint United Nations initiative to improv maternal and newborn health (H4), the Internationa Health Partnership and the Harmonization for Health i Africa initiative.

5. Areas of cross-sectoral coordination within the United Nations system included HIV/AIDS and maternal health, gender equality and HIV, and climate change and associated health risks. New modalities for action, such as working with civil society and involving those directly affected by health problems, had been adopted. Programming by country teams was based increasingly on national priorities and plans, resulting in a shift from project-based approaches to joint support for country-owned programmes and a focus on strengthening national capacity. The United Nations and the international community had helped countries to implement comprehensive global public health initiatives, but it was urgent to maintain that momentum and to scale up efforts and resources.

6. Experience showed that support for national processes and ownership, establishment of accountability mechanisms between developed and developing countries, strengthened partnerships with civil society, promotion of gender equality, equitable access to health services, strengthened governance, community-based involvement, development of comprehensive human resource strategies and reliable data were critical for improving public health. The September 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly would provide an opportunity for Governments to agree on an action plan that would serve as a road map for the future. In that context, the report identified the reduction of maternal and newborn deaths as the most urgent priority within the health-related Goals and recommended that the meeting should pay specific attention to nutrition as a means to bring together issues related to public health, food security and social protection; Governments should develop comprehensive national health policies based on that framework. Lastly, the report stressed that the community of donors must deliver on its promises of greatly expanded official development assistance in order to ensure that sufficient funding was available for health initiatives.

7. He then read out a statement on behalf of Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16 (E/2010/90). *Prepared as an* update to the previous year's report (E/2009/89), it illustrated recent developments, described efforts to streamline the programme of work of the Council's substantive session in order to avoid overlap and duplication between the segments, and made suggestions for further streamlining.

8. The report proposed a number of options for the scope and periodicity of future reporting by the Secretary-General. First, since the annual report on integrated conference follow-up had been initially requested before the establishment of the annual ministerial review, which provided an integrated, substantive way for the Council to review progress in implementation of the outcomes of conferences and summits, the information contained therein could be incorporated into the report of the Secretary-General that was prepared for the review. Second, the report on integrated conference follow-up could be considered every five years or so in order to coincide with the five-year review cycle of the MDGs. Third, the scope and periodicity of the report could be reviewed by the Council in connection with the General Assembly's review of its resolution 61/16 ("Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council"), which would next be conducted at the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly.

9. **Mr. Marzano** (International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions) said that the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS) was an extensive network of representative associations and qualified people with years of experience in organized civil society. Although AICESIS had been in existence for only 10 years, some 70 countries were represented in it through their economic and social councils. Those councils, comprised of members of the labour and business communities and other stakeholders, cooperated with the Parliaments and Governments of their respective countries and made proposals aimed at improving economic and social life, creating jobs, reducing poverty levels, redistributing wealth and ensuring greater social fairness. The method used involved discussion, feedback, social dialogue and finding common ground. Unlike politicians, the councils could consider the broader picture and look at problems over the medium and long term.

10. Global financial markets were still troubled and Governments were working to set new governance rules. The real economy had begun to recover, but at different rates in different regions. Although States and

Governments were doing their utmost to address the current economic problems through budgeting, unemployment and the impact of the crisis on weaker social groups made it urgent to create new jobs and adopt policies to help young people, many of whom had good educational backgrounds, find positions of responsibility. The current economic uncertainty could not only lower the overall quality of life; it could also widen gaps between social groups and worsen conditions for the poor. With its direct understanding of civil society, AICESIS could make a valuable contribution to the search for balanced solutions that would strengthen social cohesion as a necessary condition for economic growth.

A panel discussion on the topic of "Toward a United Nations comprehensive policy response to global health challenges" followed. The panel was chaired and moderated by Mr. Morten Wetland (Norway), Vice-President of the Council. The panellists were Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund; Ms. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund; Mr. Michel Sidibé, Executive Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; and Dr. Carissa Etienne, Assistant Director-General, Health Systems and Services, World Health Organization.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.